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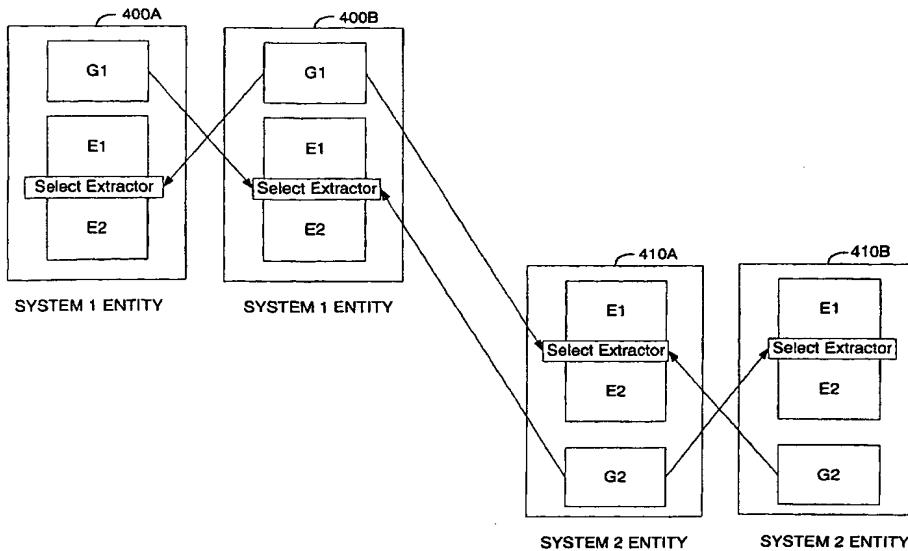
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(54) Title: TANDEM-FREE VOCODER OPERATIONS BETWEEN NON-COMPATIBLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract: Tandem-free vocoder operations (TFO) between non-compatible communication systems may be enabled through hardware modifications at communication elements within each system. In one aspect, each infrastructure entity in System 1 comprises an intra-system TFO Frame Generator G<sub>1</sub>, an intra-system TFO Frame Extractor E<sub>1</sub>, and a TFO Frame Extractor E<sub>2</sub> of System 2, which is non-compatible to System 1. Each infrastructure entity in System 2 comprises an intra-system TFO Frame Generator G<sub>2</sub>, an intra-system TFO Frame Extractor E<sub>2</sub>, and a TFO Frame Extractor E<sub>1</sub> of System 1.

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